



City of Deer Park Messenger

Fall 2014

Fire Prevention Week

When was the last time you tested the smoke alarms in your home? If you can't remember, you're not alone. Smoke alarms are often taken for granted and not maintained as they should be.

Working smoke alarms are critical fire safety tools that can mean the difference between life and death in home fires. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), smoke alarms can decrease the chance of death in a home fire by as much as half. NFPA data shows that home fires killed more than 2,300 people in 2012. Proper smoke alarm protection could have prevented many of these deaths.

Through the NFPA's Annual Fire Prevention Week campaign, *Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!*, the nonprofit organization hopes to better educate the public about the importance of working smoke alarms. In support of their efforts, the Deer Park Fire Marshal's Office and the Deer Park Fire Department will host the Annual Fire Prevention Parade on October 4 at 10am and other activities during Fire Prevention Week, October 5 through 11.

Smoke Alarm Tips

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home so that when one alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test alarms each month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms after 10 years or sooner if they do not respond properly, including hardwired alarms and alarms that use 10-year life batteries.
- Make sure everyone in your home recognizes the sound of the alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.



Fire Prevention Parade

Join us for the grand parade with over 100 fire trucks on Saturday, October 4 at 10am. The parade route starts at the stadium parking lot on P Street and ends at the intersection of Center Street and 13th Street.



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Serve Your Community

City Council appoints members to various boards and commissions twice a year. Citizens interested in volunteer opportunities may apply for 2-year terms on the Library Board of Trustees, the Parks & Recreation Commission, the Planning & Zoning Commission/Board of Adjustment, or the Senior Citizens Commission. Generally, meetings are held once a month. For a description of the membership terms and an application, go to www.deerparktx.gov, hover over *Our Community* on the menu at top, and then click on *Volunteer Opportunities*. Call the City Secretary's Office at 281-478-7248 for more details.



**Working Smoke Alarms
Save Lives**

Test Yours Every Month!

Fire Prevention Week • October 5–11, 2014
Go to FPW.org



General Information

Elected Officials

Jerry Mouton, Jr.	Mayor
Sherry Garrison	Council Member - Position 1
Thane Harrison	Council Member - Position 2
Chris Richey	Council Member - Position 3
Bill Patterson	Council Member - Position 4
Ron Martin	Council Member - Position 5
Rae A. Sinor	Council Member - Position 6

Contact the Mayor and members of City Council by e-mail at cityhall@deerparktx.org.

Department Directors

James J. Stokes	City Manager
Gary M. Jackson	Assistant City Manager
Sandra Watkins	City Secretary
Donna Todd	Director, Finance
Bill Philibert	Director, Human Resources
Bill Pedersen	Director, Public Works
Scott E. Swigert	Director, Parks and Recreation
Rebecca Pool	Director, Library
Malcolm Swinney	Director, Emergency Services
Greg Grigg	Chief of Police
Linda McHone	I.T. Director

Other Appointed Officials

Jim Fox	City Attorney
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City Facilities

Animal Shelter	281-478-7274	4213 Luella
Art Park Players Dinner Theatre	281-478-7288	1302 Center
Avon Recreation Center	281-478-7216	601 W. 8 th Street
Battleground Golf Course	281-478-2080	1600 Georgia
City Hall	281-479-2394	710 E. San Augustine
Claude Burgess Recreation Center	281-478-2060	4200 Kalwick
Community Center	281-478-2050	610 E. San Augustine
Fire Station #1	281-478-2043	1302 Center
Fire Station #2	281-478-7282	711 E. Pasadena Blvd.
Fire Station #3	281-478-7281	2211 East X
Jimmy Burke Activity Center	281-478-2049	500 W. 13 th Street
Kingsdale Center	281-478-7215	2218 Kingsdale
Maxwell Adult Center	281-478-7276	1201 Center
Municipal Court	281-478-7238	1302 Center
Police Station	281-479-1511	2911 Center
Public Library	281-478-7208	3009 Center
Swimming Pool	281-478-2055	610 E. San Augustine
Transfer Station	281-478-7213	610 Underwood

The *Messenger* is a quarterly newsletter published by the City of Deer Park, 710 E. San Augustine, Deer Park, Texas 77536. Go to www.deerparktx.gov to read the newsletter online or to sign up for *Notify Me* so you can receive the latest edition of the Messenger by e-mail as soon as it is available.

Calendar

September

- 1 City Services Closed (Labor Day)
- 2 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 6 Siren Test 12pm
- 8 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 13 Siren Test 12pm
- 15 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 16 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 20 Siren Test 12pm
- 23 LEPC Meeting - 11am
- 27 Siren Test 12pm

October

- 4 Siren Test 12pm
- 6 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 7 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 11 Siren Test 12pm
- 18 Siren Test 12pm
- 20 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 21 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 25 Siren Test 12pm
- 28 LEPC Meeting - 11am

November

- 1 Siren Test 12pm
- 3 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 4 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 8 Siren Test 12pm
- 15 Siren Test 12pm
- 17 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 18 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 22 Siren Test 12pm
- 25 LEPC Meeting - 11am
- 27 City Services Closed (Thanksgiving)
- 28 City Services Closed (Thanksgiving)
- 29 Siren Test 12pm



1600 Georgia Ave.

www.battlegroundgolfcourse.com

Golf Course 281-478-2080

Republic Grill 281-478-2089

2014-2015 Budget



On July 29, the City Manager presented to the Mayor and City Council a proposed budget for the fiscal year that begins on October 1, 2014. The City Manager's proposed operating budget totals \$55,178,298. The proposed operating budget amounts for the major City funds are as follows:

General Fund	\$35,926,029
Water & Sewer Fund	9,592,399
Debt Service Fund	3,899,073
Special Revenue Fund	1,925,519
Storm Water Utility Fund	466,278
Golf Course Lease Fund	120,000
Capital Improv. Fund	3,249,000
TOTAL	\$55,178,298

The proposed operating budget includes a proposed tax rate of \$0.72/\$100 of valuation, which is the same tax rate as levied in FY 2013-2014. As in the past, all residential property owners will continue to receive a 20% value reduction on their homestead property for the purpose of computing the property tax. By way of example, the owner of a home valued at \$100,000 will pay property taxes on \$80,000 of that value. Additionally, senior citizens, age 65 and older, will continue receiving an additional exemption of \$50,000 on the value of their homestead. Utilizing the same example of a residence valued at \$100,000, a senior citizen will pay property tax on \$30,000 of the value of the residence. As a further benefit for senior citizens ages 65 and older, the amount of property taxes paid to the City is capped as of the year in which they

turn 65. Unless a senior citizen makes improvements to their home, such as adding a room or building a swimming pool, they will never pay more in property taxes to the City than the amount paid in the year they turn 65 years of age, even if their existing residence increases in value. For more information on these exemptions and the tax cap for senior citizens, please contact the Tax Dept. at 281-478-7222.

The City uses a variety of funds to pay for its operations. The General Fund includes monies for the general operation of the City, including services such as Police, Fire/EMS, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Library, and Administration. The proposed FY 2014-2015 General Fund budget calls for no ad valorem tax increase, four (4) new full-time staff positions, and a 3% cost of living increase for full-time City employees. In concert with the Capital Improvements Fund, the FY 2014-2015 budget allocates over \$2 million for street improvements, over \$1 million for drainage improvements, and \$500,000 for sidewalk improvements.

The City will continue addressing water and sewer capital improvements designated as part of a 10-year capital improvements program. These include renovations throughout Deer Park to water lines, sewer lines, lift stations, water towers, the Water Treatment Plant, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. FY 2014-2015 is the fourth year of this program, with expenditures planned for sewer line rehabilitation in the Deer Park Terrace area, water line replacement throughout Deer Park (portions of Hillshire, Estate, Faith,

Evie, and Elbridge streets), and continued major improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. These costs will be covered via the issuance in FY 2014-2015 of an estimated \$6,705,000 in certificates of obligation backed by water and sewer revenues. The City's Water & Sewer Fund operates as an enterprise fund, which means it derives revenue from water and sewer rates, not property taxes. Debt obligations for water and sewer system improvements must be funded by water and sewer revenues. One (1) new full time position is proposed to be funded in the Water and Sewer Fund. For FY 2014-2015, water and sewer rates are budgeted to increase 5%. This is the first increase in water and sewer rates since 2010. These new rates are necessary to support the increased cost of operations and debt service payments associated with the Water & Sewer Fund.

Funds in the Debt Service Fund are used to pay the annual interest and principal payments on the City's outstanding bonds, as well as the related paying agent fees. These expenditures in FY 2014-2015 are estimated to be \$3,899,073. This amount includes the estimated interest and principal payments and issuance costs associated with the sale of \$1,040,000 of general obligation bonds and \$1,955,000 of general obligation refunding bonds planned for FY 2014-2015.

The Special Revenue Fund consists of revenue from the Hotel Occupancy Tax, Municipal Court fees, Police Forfeiture funds, and Grant Funds. For FY 2014-2015, proposed Hotel Occupancy Tax expenditures total \$1,351,705. Municipal

2014-2015 Budget

Court fees will fund related Court expenditures of \$516,221 in FY 2014-2015, and Police Forfeiture funds will cover \$32,593 of Police Department expenditures. Grant funds of \$25,000 will assist with a new Gateway entry feature along Center Street. Several City events are funded through Hotel Occupancy Tax proceeds, including the annual Reindeer Park, the Totally Texas Festival, the Halloween Carnival, and 4th Fest. One (1) new full time position is proposed to be funded through the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund. This new position is a Public Relations/Marketing Specialist who will market the City of Deer Park and lead our efforts to promote tourism.

The Capital Improvements Fund is for the purpose of funding capital improvements on a cash or pay-as-you-go basis, which reduces the use of long-term debt financing. Numerous projects totaling \$3,249,000 are included in the FY 2014-2015 budget with \$2,049,000 to be funded by a transfer of the General Fund and \$1,200,000 being funded by prior year reserves.

The Storm Water Utility Fund allows the City to cover expenses associated with the unfunded federal mandate known as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The NPDES mandate requires cities to implement programs and practices to control polluted storm water runoff through a permitting program. Those expenses in FY 2014-2015 total \$466,278.

The Golf Course Lease Fund began in the current year's budget when the City started leasing its

operations of The Battleground Golf Course and Republic Grill to Touchstone Golf. Previously, costs associated with golf course operations were housed in the General Fund. For FY 2014-2015, Golf Course Lease Fund expenditures are budgeted at \$120,000.

In May 2011, Deer Park voters authorized a ¼ cent sales tax for a new Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) and a ¼ cent sales tax for a new Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District (FCPEMSD). These Districts are component units of the City, led by their respective Board of Directors. The FY 2014-2015 budgets of both entities provide dedicated resources beyond the City's General Fund, which allow for the purchase of many other items to be utilized by the Deer Park Police Department and Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department. The CCPD's budgeted expenditures for FY 2014-2015 are \$1,757,522. The FCPEMSD's FY 2014-2015 budgeted expenditures total \$1,347,418.

For more information about the proposed budget, contact the City Manager's Office at 281-478-7245. You may also review the proposed budget at www.deerparktx.gov, or visit the City Secretary's Office or the Deer Park Public Library.

Texas Parks & Wildlife

The new season of the Texas Parks & Wildlife television series airs on DPTV this October. You'll be inspired to get outdoors and enjoy all the interesting parks Texas has to offer.



Police Dept.

Back-to-School Traffic

The start of a new school year generally means traffic congestion in the morning as students arrive at school and in the afternoon



as they leave to go home. The best approach for handling the increase in traffic congestion is to plan ahead. Deer Park and La Porte schools are back in session on Aug. 25. Although traffic congestion usually subsides after a few weeks, make those few days less stressful by following these tips:

- Contact your child's school for details on the traffic flow, as well as drop-off and pick up locations and times.
- Pay close attention to school zone times, not just for your child's school, but for all school zones.
- Be courteous and do not block any residential driveways or park in "no parking" zones while waiting to pick up your child. Officers will be patrolling these areas and issuing citations.
- Be aware of crossing guard locations throughout the city. Texas Transportation Code 542.501 requires drivers to obey traffic direction from a school crossing guard while in the course of their official duties.
- Do not engage in distracted driving. Doing anything behind the wheel that takes your attention away from the complicated task of driving, such as adjusting the radio and talking or texting on your cell phone, results in distracted driving. Studies show that distracted driving is similar to driving while intoxi-

Police Department

cated. You are 4 times more likely to have a crash when you are using your cell phone while driving.

If your child walks home from school, be sure to remind them to:

- Cross busy streets at the crosswalks and with the assistance of an adult or crossing guard.
- Use the buddy system and avoid walking alone.
- Never run out into the street or cross between parked cars.
- Always walk in front of a parked bus so the driver can see them.

For more safety tips, go to www.safekids.org/safetytips.

Officers will be patrolling school zones and hot spot locations related to the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program. For questions, contact Sergeant J. W. White at 281-930-2152 or send an e-mail to jwhite@deerparktx.org.

Alarm Systems Must Be Registered

The responsibility of registering an alarm system and obtaining a permit belongs to the individual business or resident. Under the Texas Occupations Code, Section 1702.286, Duties of Alarm Systems Company, the alarm systems company must inform the business or resident upon installation about the applicable law relating to false alarms, including the potential for penalties and revocation or suspension of a permit, in addition to other pertinent information. Registration of alarm systems for business and residential locations within the city limits is administered by the Alarm Coordinator at the Deer Park Police Dept. If you

have one or more alarm systems protecting 2 or more separate structures, a separate permit is required for each structure. Residential permit fees are \$25 each, while business permit fees are \$50 each. Permits are valid for 12 months, unless an event or condition causes the permit to become invalid in accordance with city ordinance. It is the responsibility of every resident and business to ensure everyone who is authorized to have access to the property has been properly instructed on the operation of the alarm system and the procedure to cancel a false alarm. Please notify the police department immediately if changes need to be made to the emergency contact information. To obtain an application, go to www.deerparktx.gov/police, hover over *Department Organization* on the menu at the top, and click on *Alarm Coordinator* under *Neighborhood Services*. Applications are also available in the front lobby of the Deer Park Police Station. The listed permit holder's signature is required on the completed application.

Operation of an alarm system without a valid permit may result in a misdemeanor offense and response fees. For more information or to read the City's Alarm Ordinance, go to www.deerparktx.gov/police, hover over *Department Organization* on the menu at the top, and click on *Alarm Coordinator* under *Neighborhood Services*. You will see the several options to click on under the Quick Links sections on bottom right side of the Alarm Coordinator's webpage. For questions, contact Officer Merv Howard at 281-930-2144 or mhoward@deerparktx.org.

Do You Know Where Your Dog Is?

Animals running loose in our community cause many concerns. Recently, there has been an increase in calls involving animals at large and barking dogs. These matters are handled by the police department and the animal control division, which results in one less police officer patrolling the streets and one less animal control officer performing his or her duties at the shelter.



Animals running at large tend to be a greater threat to our children due to a child's inability to fend off an attack. Loose dogs get into trash and drag it across yards and streets, which also creates an unsightly appearance for our city. Dogs must be on a leash and not allowed to freely roam our streets and neighborhoods. Regularly check that your gates are secure and that there aren't any loose boards or holes in your fence that will allow your dog to escape from the backyard. Deer Park City Ordinance requires a dog to be confined to the owner's property by a fence or on a leash when the dog is not within the limits of the owner's private property. Be sure to keep your dog's vaccinations up-to-date and obtain copies of the records from the veterinarian for your files at home.

Be mindful of the noise your dog creates. If your dog is prone to barking, be sure to bring the dog inside at night so your neighbors can sleep without being disturbed. If any of your neighbors are shift workers, you should also be mind-

Police Department

ful of the dog barking during the day. Your dog should have access to shade, food, and water at all times, especially during the hot summer months. A lack of any one of those items can cause a dog to get noisy and want to escape from your backyard. If you see a dog running loose, call the police department at 281-479-1511.

Power Outages

The Deer Park Police Dept. Dispatch Center is frequently inundated with calls regarding power outages. Unfortunately, the dispatch center has no control over the loss of electricity. Dispatchers have to call CenterPoint Energy at 713-207-2222 or 800-332-7143 to report power outages just like any other customer.



Emergencies require a high degree of attention and multitasking from a limited number of personnel. Because power outages frequently occur in conjunction with other emergencies, such as major accidents and downed power lines, fielding calls regarding power outages affects the dispatcher's ability to handle other emergency calls more efficiently.

CenterPoint Energy now offers an outage tracker online at <http://gis.centerpointenergy.com/outagetracker>. This tool gives customers access to up-to-date information on the power outages in the area, such as the location of the outage, the number of customers affected, and an estimated restoration time.

Warrant Notifications

The Deer Park Police Department is currently utilizing Blackboard Connect to notify individuals of outstanding municipal warrants. Blackboard Connect is already used by the city to send out emergency notifications. Using this program for warrant notifications will allow subjects to quickly address their warrants and not accrue further charges.

Blackboard Connect is also used by the Municipal Court to notify individuals of their failure to appear in court. This notification is in response to the nearly 40% failure to appear rate on court days. An additional failure to appear warrant is added to any person who fails to appear on their court date, as well as a \$200 fine.

A few of the patrol vehicles are now equipped with cameras that read the license plates of passing motorists. The License Plate Recognition (LPR) system is designed to associate a license plate with a person who possess outstanding warrants and stolen vehicles. If you are issued a traffic citation and that citation becomes a warrant, your information is then placed in the LPR system. The vehicle you were in when you were issued the citation will be flagged. If you drive by a patrol car with the LPR system, the officer will be notified that your vehicle is associated with a warrant. A resulting traffic stop will determine whether the occupant of the vehicle is the person with the outstanding warrant.

For more information, go to www.deerparktx.gov/court.

National Night Out

On Oct. 7, neighborhoods throughout Deer Park are invited to join thousands of communities nationwide for the 31st Annual National Night Out crime and drug prevention event. National Night Out is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored locally by the Deer Park Police Dept. (DPPD). Over 15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases around the world will participate. Sponsors this year include ADT Corporation, NextDoor.com, Associa, Kwikset, and FunFlicks.

National Night Out, a year-long community building campaign, is designed to: (1) Heighten crime prevention awareness, (2) Generate support and participation in local anti-crime programs, (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and (4) Send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and plan to fight back. In addition to the traditional outside lights and front porch vigils, most cities celebrate National Night Out with block parties, parades, festivals, safety fairs, and youth activities. Residents in neighborhoods across the nation are asked to lock their doors, turn on the outdoor lights, and spend the evening visiting with neighbors and police.

National Night Out emphasizes the importance of police-community partnerships and citizen involvement in our fight to build a safer nation. Contact Community Liaison, Sheila Plovanich, at 281-930-2118 or splovanich@deerparktx.org for more information.

Public Works

Animal Issues

Animal Bites

If you own an animal which has bitten someone or you are a victim of an animal bite, by law, you are required to report such incidents within 24 hours. You should report it to the Deer Park Police Department at 281-479-1511 or Animal Control at 281-478-7274. Please provide a detailed description of the animal when you report the incident.



Barking Dogs

Barking dog complaints are common, particularly during warm weather when windows are open. Owners of barking dogs are in violation of the noise ordinance. It is extremely inconsiderate to allow dogs to bark unnecessarily. If your dog is barking, please investigate the cause. To report a dog which barks loudly and frequently, contact Animal Control at 281-478-7274.



Cat Problems

Per City ordinance, households are limited to 3 animals over the age of 6 months. An annual license and rabies vaccination is required for all cats. Cats are required to display the rabies tag and license on a collar at all times. The City strongly recommends that cat owners confine their cats indoors. Indoor cats avoid traffic hazards and exposure to infectious diseases. If you do have an issue with a nuisance cat, there are a few solutions that may help. Ropel is an animal repellent that can be used in areas outdoors where cats are a problem. If the owner of



the problem cat is known, contact them and ask for their cooperation. If necessary, traps are available at the Deer Park Animal Shelter. A \$75 deposit is required for the animal trap.

Heavy Trash Pick Up

Every Wednesday is reserved for heavy trash pickup. Occasionally, the volume of heavy trash will require more than one day to service the entire city. If that is the case, the remainder of heavy trash will be picked up by Friday.

Items, such as yard trash, tree limbs, broken and discarded toys, small pieces of furniture, and appliances, should be placed behind the curb line for collection by 8am. Tree limbs should be smaller than 6 inches in diameter and no more than 4 feet in length. Limbs should be stacked neatly behind the curb line. The city is not responsible for debris generated by private contract jobs. To discard an appliance, such as a refrigerator, please remove the door or secure the door with tape or rope to prevent children from getting inside. City residents may also transport heavy trash to the city depository.

City Depository

The Transfer Station is located at 610 Underwood Road and open on Saturdays from 9am-4:30pm. Residents do not pay a fee to use the facility. However, proof of residency must be provided in the form of a current utility bill and driver's license. You can discard old fences, appliances, furniture, and electronics. The Transfer Station is unable to accept any large automotive parts, solvents, or flammable liquids. Lawn mowers and other simi-

lar items can be discarded if the gas tank is removed. For more information, call the Transfer Station at 281-478-7213.



Drainage Maintenance

The drainage system in Deer Park includes both open and closed segments. The open sections are drainage swales and ditches, which are utilized to carry storm water away from homes to drainage areas. The closed system is comprised of storm water inlets and storm drain pipes, which also carry water from streets and developments to drainage areas.

Keeping the drainage system maintained is very important. The City performs maintenance work on the system at least twice a year and on an as-needed basis. Debris in ditches and streams can obstruct the flow of flood water, which can cause overflow onto streets and yards. Dumping is against City ordinance and may be punishable with a fine. To report illegal dumping, call 281-478-7252.

Citizens are expected to perform routine maintenance on ditches located on rights-of-way in front of their properties, including the removal of high weeds, litter, and other items that may be considered a nuisance. The area should also be kept free of stagnant water so it does not become an ideal breeding ground for mosquitos.

Public Works

Code Enforcement

Code enforcement officers provide essential and beneficial services that ensure quality of life within the City of Deer Park. On a daily basis, the Code Enforcement Division handles citizen complaints relating to potential violations of city ordinances that are not criminal in nature. Common violations may include dirty pools, encroachment of easement or right-of-way, falling fences, graffiti, high grass, illegal barbecue pits or containers, junk debris or vehicles, low hanging trees, occupied RV trailers, parking on front yard grass, failure to obtain a permit for building, plumbing, electrical or mechanical work, and failure to obtain a garage sale permit. To report code violations, go to www.deerparktx.gov/publicworks.

City Projects

- The Patrick's Bayou Storm Water Detention Basin is currently under construction on the north end of town. A 35-acre storm water detention basin is being constructed. The project started in January 2013 and is expected to be completed in the 3rd quarter of 2014.
- The Drainage Improvements to Deer Park Gardens Subdivision Project (N. Amy, S. Amy, and Brenda Street) was awarded to Mar-Con Services in the amount of \$182,509.60. Construction of this project is expected to be completed in the 3rd quarter of 2014.
- The Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project for Priority Area #3 was awarded to PM Construction in the amount of \$1,724,755. The project involves rehabilitating the sanitary sewer lines in College Park Subdivisions 1-8 and Heritage Additions, Sections 1 & 2. The project is expected to be completed in the 4th quarter of 2014.
- The Fire Station #3 Parking Lot Expansion Project was awarded to T&T Construction in the amount of \$40,533.16. This project is expected to be completed in the 3rd quarter of 2014.
- The Fire Station #2 Expansion Project is expected to be awarded in the 3rd quarter of 2014 and should start construction shortly thereafter.
- The Offsite Drainage Improvement Project will take place on E. Highline Drive, E. Oak Drive, and E. Forest Drive. This project was awarded to Metro City Construction in the amount of \$283,260.60. This project should be completed by the end of 2014.
- The Water Line Improvement Project went out for bids in summer 2014. The project

Resident Reminders - Draining Your Pool

If you are draining your pool, you are most likely having to make a repair or adjust the water chemistry. When possible, you should drain your pool directly into the sanitary sewer system. Sending the pool water through the sewer system will allow the water to be treated and reused. In-ground pools generally have a sanitary sewer drainage inlet near the pool equipment. If your pool does not have a connection to the sewer system, consult a licensed plumber or pool professional to find out how to drain your pool.

If the water in the pool has been dechlorinated and the water is clear and algae free, it can be drained into the storm drain. Use a home pool test kit to confirm that chlorine residual levels do not exceed 0.1 ppm and that the pH level is between 6.5 and 7.5. Dechlorinated, algae free pool water can be used to water your plants or yard. Monitor the rate of discharge so the water does not cause problems, such as erosion, flooding, or overburden the downstream drainage facility.

- involves replacing the existing 6-inch water line with a 12-inch water line, in addition to the installation of an 8-inch water line from Patrick's Bayou Detention Pond to Park Green Subdivision. It is expected to be awarded in the 3rd quarter of 2014.
- The Sidewalk Improvement Project went out for bids in summer 2014. The project involves installing new sidewalks in areas of town that currently do not have existing sidewalks and adding sidewalk ramps at various locations. It is expected to be awarded in the 3rd quarter of 2014.

Do You Need A Permit?

Always check with the Public Works Dept. before you build on, fill, alter, or regrade your property. A permit is needed to ensure that such projects do not cause problems on other properties. For more information, call 281-478-7252.

Economic Development

Business News

- *Barbie Bowtique and Kallie Kouture*, both opened in Deer Park within the past year, are two of our small-business success stories. Owners, Chrissy McRee and Sarah Evans, have combined their entrepreneurial talents and moved the Kallie Kouture children's resale boutique into some unused space inside Barbie Bowtique, located at 2816 Center St. (across the street from the police station). Both businesses have maintained their own unique inventory. Customers can enjoy the advantage of having two distinctive businesses at one convenient location.
- *Stripes Convenience Store* is now open at 2820 Center St. (corner of Center and P Street). Stripes offers a gas card that can save you up to 11 cents per gallon at the pump. You'll also find the Laredo Taco Company right inside the store!
- *Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwich Shop* will open soon in the new College Park Shopping Center currently under construction at 8015 Spencer Highway.
- *Bosa Donuts*, Deer Park's beloved donut shop for over 30 years, has closed its doors. Owners Don and Petra Cote have sold the business and started their much-deserved retirement. The new owner, *Shipley Do-Nuts*, will move their current Deer Park location after remodeling the Bosa store.



- *Lone Star Taco* at 3811 Center St. (former location of Gina's Italian Restaurant) is now open. Hot breakfast tacos are served daily beginning at 7am and the main menu is served until 11pm.
- *WillPower Gaming*, Deer Park's 1st gaming center, is open at 8317 Spencer Highway. It's like a game room; however, it is lined with computers and chairs instead of pinball machines and pool tables. It's a social venue for people of all ages to join in fun competition through multi-player video games. As many as 500 people from different countries can all play the same game at once.
- Have you been to *Ken's Restaurant* at 1122 Center St. lately? Owner Randy Voltz had 6 Deer Park High School art students and teachers paint a mural on the back wall of the restaurant.



- *Lil' Rascals Day Care* owners are breaking ground on their new, large day care facility at the corner of Center Street and Lambuth.

For questions, contact Debbie Westbeld, Economic Development Administrator, at 281-478-2042 or go to www.deerparktx.gov/ed.

Art Park Players

Season Tickets

It's not too late to join or renew your season tickets! Season memberships offer tickets to 4 dinner theatre productions set in the Swingin' Sixties.

- Big Fish, The Musical (October 2014)
- Boeing, Boeing (February 2015)
- Always, Patsy Cline (May 2015)
- Hairspray (July 2015)

\$500 Platinum Package: Corporate Sponsor

4 tickets, 4 dinner productions, acknowledgment in the program

\$220 Gold Package: Season Patron

2 tickets, 4 dinner productions, acknowledgment in the program

\$90 Silver Package: Season Ticket Holder

1 ticket, 4 dinner productions

\$50 Bronze Package: Show-Only Ticket Holder

1 show-only ticket, 4 productions



Big Fish

The Art Park Players kick off their Swingin' Sixties Season with the Texas premier of the musical, Big Fish. Big Fish focuses on the charismatic Edward Bloom and the impossible stories of his epic adventures that frustrate his son, Will. Will decides to embark on his own journey to find out who his father really is.

Oct. 10, 11, 17, 18, 24 & 25

Meal at 7pm, 8pm Curtain

Oct. 12 & 19

Meal at 1pm, 2pm Curtain

To purchase tickets to any of our shows, call the Art Park Players Box Office at 281-794-2448. Unless otherwise noted, productions are held at the Municipal Court & Theatre Building located at 1302 Center Street.

Library News

Fall Book Sale

The Friends of the Deer Park Public Library's Annual Fall Book Sale is scheduled for Oct. 8-11 during normal library hours. Members of the Friends of the Library are invited to attend the preview sale on Oct. 7 from 5-9pm. Annual membership dues for Friends of the Library are \$5 for individuals, \$10 for families, and \$2 for senior citizens.

Beginners' Crochet Class

*For ages 8 to adult
Tuesdays, 7-8pm*

This free class is offered at the library for those with some or no previous knowledge. Learn at your own pace. Attend at your own convenience. Initial materials provided. Registration is not required.

Storytime programs for toddlers and preschool children incorporate books, fingerplays, songs, and activities to promote interest in reading and lifelong learning.

Toddler Storytime

*For children up to 3½ years old
Wed. & Thurs., 10:15-10:45am
Sept. 3-Dec. 4*

The sessions include stories and activities designed to encourage a love for books, increase attention spans, and develop basic social skills. Parents and caregivers are required to stay with the toddler to encourage them to participate. Storytime sessions will not be offered on Oct. 8 & 9 due to the Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale. Storytime resumes on Oct. 15.

A special **Halloween Storytime** session for toddlers and preschoolers will be offered on Oct. 30 at 10:30am. Costumes are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Preschool Storytime

*For ages 3½ to 6
Thursdays, 11-11:45am
Sept. 4-Dec. 4*

In these sessions, children listen to stories and participate in group activities. Storytime sessions will not be offered on Oct. 9 due to the Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale. Storytime resumes on Oct. 16.

Matinee Movie

Thursdays, 3:30pm

Join us for a free movie and popcorn every Thursday afternoon at the library. Call 281-478-7208 for movie titles and age ratings. A matinee movie will not be offered on Oct. 9 due to the Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale. Matinee movies resume Oct. 16.

Fall Craft

*For ages 5 to 12
Sept. 9, 3:30-4:30pm*

Materials to assemble the fall craft will be provided to children free of charge. A craft to accommodate children ages 5 to 8 and ages 9 to 12 will be available.

Halloween Craft

*For ages 5 to 12
Oct. 14, 3:30-4:30pm*

Materials to assemble the Halloween craft will be provided to children free of charge. A craft to accommodate children ages 5 to 8 and ages 9 to 12 will be available.

Thanksgiving Craft

*For ages 5 to 12
Nov. 11, 3:30-4:30pm*

Materials to assemble the Thanksgiving craft will be provided to children free of charge. A craft to accommodate children ages 5 to 8 and ages 9 to 12 will be available.

Teen Tech

*For school-aged teens
Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30pm*

Teens will enjoy socializing and a little friendly competition at video gaming, board games, and card games. Free snacks are provided by the Friends of the Library. Teen Tech is canceled on Oct. 8 due to the Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale. Teen Tech resumes on Oct. 15. On Nov. 26, Teen Tech will be offered from 2 to 5pm.

Teen Advisory Board Meeting

*For ages 13 to 18
Tuesdays, Sept. 1-Nov. 1, 4-5pm*

Join the library's Teen Advisory Board and be a part of the planning for teen programs. Discuss reading trends and make suggestions for the teen collection. Meetings will be the 1st Tuesday of the month at 4pm. If you are interested, contact Robert at rzambrano@deerparktx.org or stop by the library to pick up a form.

Using the Library at Home

Our electronic resources are now even easier to use from home! We have simplified the login process for patrons who have internet access outside the library. Use your library card number to access information on crafts, home repair, and health. You can also find legal forms or watch software tutorials! To access these resources, go to www.deerparktx.gov/library, hover over *E-Library* on the menu at the top, and click on one of the options under *Research*. Library resources accessible online 24-7!

Take Advantage of E-Books

We are now utilizing the OverDrive Advantage program. In addition to

Library News

the extensive catalog of OverDrive e-books and audio books through the Houston Area Database Consortium, new materials have been added especially for Deer Park patrons. Our Advantage Collection includes new study guides for the ASVAB, GED, SAT, and GRE, as well as additional copies of best sellers, high-interest teen books, mystery book club titles, and DPIISD assigned reading list items. Sign in at <http://hadc.lib.overdrive.com> before you search and look for the "a" in the left corner that identifies the Advantage program copies.

Computer Classes

Computer classes are free, but space is limited so registration is required. Some classes have pre-requisites. Register for Sept. classes starting Aug. 18, October classes starting September 16, and November classes starting October 20. In addition to computer classes, open lab sessions will be offered every month. For more information or to register, please call 281-478-7208.

- **Introduction to Computers** - Become familiar with computers and technical terminology, plus get comfortable using a mouse, opening software applications, and other basic skills.
- **Browsing the Web** - Learn the basic skills of browsing the world wide web. Topics include search engines, simple search techniques, security precautions, and the basics of e-mail.
- **Using Social Media** - Learn the basics of social networking sites and how they are used. Websites to be discussed will include Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, and LinkedIn.
- **Microsoft Word 2010 Basics** - Become familiar with the 2010

version of Word and learn how to create and edit basic Word documents, including resumes and letters.

- **Microsoft Excel 2010 Basics** - Become familiar with the 2010 version of Excel and learn how to create and edit basic spreadsheets, and use simple formulas and functions.
- **Microsoft PowerPoint 2010 Basics** - Become familiar with the 2010 version of PowerPoint and learn how to create a presentation using themes, illustrations, transitions, and animation.
- **Open Lab Session** - Ask the questions you want answered regarding Microsoft Office, Windows 7, or our electronic resources.

Open Lab Sessions

Do you need one-on-one assistance with computer software programs, such as Microsoft Word or Excel? If so, join us at an open lab session where we can answer your questions about document formatting, electronic resources, and more. Feel free to bring your laptop from home.

Mystery Book Club meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6pm. Join other mystery readers to discuss the selected books and other mystery favorites. Registration is not required. You are welcome to come whether you have read the books or not.

September 9 - Legal Thrillers

Final Jeopardy

by Linda Fairstein
&

Guilt by Association

by Marcia Clark

Go to www.deerparktx.gov/library or call 281-478-7208 for October & November mystery book club selections.

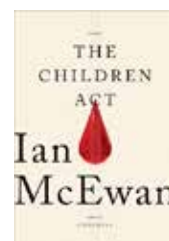
New Books for Young Adults

- Redeemed: A House of Night Novel by P. C. & Kristin Cast
- The Iron Trial (Book One of Magisterium) by Holly Black and Cassandra Clare
- The Sorcerer's Heir (The Heir Chronicles, Book 5) by Cinda Williams Chima
- Snake Bite (Sherlock Holmes: The Legend Begins, Book 5) by Andrew Lane

New Arrivals for Adults

September

- Private Down Under by James Patterson & Michael White
- Personal: A Jack Reacher Novel by Lee Child
- The Children Act by Ian McEwan



October

- Prince Lestat by Anne Rice
- Deadline by John Sandford
- Paris Match by Stuart Woods
- Gray Mountain by John Grisham
- Leaving Time by Jodi Picoult

November

- Revival by Stephen King
- Top Dog: The Story of Marine Hero Lucca by Maria Goodavage



Deer Park Library Hours

Mon. & Wed. 10am-6pm
Tues. & Thurs. 10am-9pm
Fri. & Sat. 10am-5pm

2nd Quarter Employee Awards

Supervisors



Darren Driskell, Mechanic II - Parks & Recreation Dept.

Support Staff



Ernestina Palomares, Police Crime Analyst - Police Dept.

Field Service



Nathan Naranjo, Maintenance Worker - Parks & Recreation Dept.



Kellie Bass, Records Supervisor - Police Dept.



Amanda Teltschik, Police Dispatcher - Police Dept.



Billy Penick, Mechanic Tech I - Parks & Recreation Dept.

Maxwell Center

The Maxwell Adult Center, located at 1201 Center Street, is a recreational facility for Deer Park citizens, ages 55 and over. It is open from 9am–5pm, 5 days a week, and offers a variety of classes. Bingo is every Wednesday at 1pm.

Meal Programs

Seniors can participate in a congregate meal program and eat lunch in exchange for a \$2 donation. Lunch is served daily around 11:45am. Reservations are required. We also have a homebound meal program for seniors who are restricted to their homes.



Brandi Arevalo, Recreation Specialist - Parks & Recreation Dept.



Kevin Rodgers, Fire Inspector/Investigator - Fire Dept.

Bus Trips

Sept. 17, St. Francis Wolf Sanctuary (Montgomery, Texas) - Bus leaves the Maxwell Center at 9am. Cost is \$5, plus a \$3 donation and lunch.

Fitness Room

The fitness center is free for seniors and is open Mon. & Fri., 7am–5pm and Tues.–Thurs., 7am–7pm.

For more information on upcoming bus trips or activities at the Maxwell Center, call 281-478-7276.



Garbage Bags

In 2012, the City instituted a new method of garbage bag distribution, which no longer included residential doorstep delivery. This fall, beginning on Monday, Oct. 6 through Saturday, Oct. 25, the City will again operate a garbage bag distribution center in the west parking lot of the Jimmy Burke Activity Center, located at 500 W. 13th St. The hours of operation for the distribution center will be 6am to 6pm on weekdays and 7am to 4pm on Saturdays (Oct. 11, 18 & 25). Residents will be able to drive through and pick up 2 free boxes of garbage bags through Oct. 25. In late September, residential customers will receive a yellow colored coupon in the mail, which will be required to redeem the garbage bags. Beginning Oct. 27 through Nov. 26, residents who have not yet obtained their garbage bags will be able to redeem their coupon for 2 free boxes of garbage bags by visiting the Utility Billing Dept. at City Hall, Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm. After the Nov. 26 deadline, garbage bags will be available for sale in the Utility Billing Dept. at City Hall, Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm, excluding holidays.

For more information, refer to DPTV on Comcast channel 16 or AT&T U-verse channel 99, or visit our website at www.deerparktx.gov.

Healthy Living

Home Remedies Found in Your Kitchen

Ginger: Next time you have an upset stomach or experience motion sickness, try drinking ginger ale. Chewing on a piece of ginger root or placing a small piece under your tongue works too. Ginger root is found in the produce section of the grocery store.



Coconut Oil: This particular kind of oil is great for dry skin and eczema. It even takes the sting out of bug bites, reduces the redness, and relieves the itchiness.

Water: We often hear about how much water a person should drink daily. It has been reported that 90% of headaches are caused from lack of water. So, next time you have a headache, try drinking 24 ounces of water with that pain reliever and see if it helps.



Cranberries: These bitter sweet berries, whether fresh, dried, or in the form of cranapple juice, are great for your kidneys. Cranberries help your body flush bacteria out of your system.

Sea Salt: Sea salt is great for dry skin. You can now find hand wash soap with sea salt in it, which softens skin by removing dead skin cells.

Prunes: Eating just a few dried prunes or drinking some prune juice provides safe and effective relief from constipation.

Apples: It turns out that eating an apple a day really does keep the doctor away. If you eat the skin of the apple, it has a significant amount of water and fiber. Apples are also great for heartburn. In addition, one apple is believed to give a person more energy than a cup of coffee.



Lacy Stole
Athletic & Aquatic Supervisor

Source: Health Magazine, Health.com

DPTV

The City of Deer Park government access channel, DPTV, provides residents with local government information. Programming focuses on matters pertaining to city services, workshops and meetings, special events, public service announcements, and topics deemed to be of interest to our residents. To watch, turn to Comcast channel 16, Comcast digital cable channel 99, or AT&T U-verse channel 99.

Parks & Recreation

Youth Basketball

Saturdays, for ages 7-12 (age as of Sept. 1), \$60 per child, Deer Park I.S.D. Gym Registration for youth basketball starts Aug. 11! Players will be assigned to teams by a "blind" draft. They will be divided by age regardless of the school they attend. Practices begin in December and will occur twice a week. The 8-week season starts mid-January. Games are held on Saturdays at a DPIISD gym. Each player will receive a basketball jersey. Age divisions: 8 & under, 10 & under, and 12 & under. If you are interested in becoming a coach, please register at activenet.active.com/dprecreation.

Youth Flag Football

Saturdays, for ages 7-12 (age as of Sept. 1), \$70 per child, Adult Sports Complex, 2600 Pasadena Blvd.

Registration for youth flag football starts Aug. 11! This is the perfect alternative for parents who may be hesitant to allow their children to play tackle football. Volunteer coaches, frequently the parents of players, help run each team. Coaches conduct practices and notify parents when players need to arrive for practices and games. There are 2 scheduled practices per week and the games are on Saturday mornings at the Adult Softball Complex. Age divisions: 8 & under, 10 & under, and 12 & under. If you are interested in becoming a coach, please register at activenet.active.com/dprecreation.

Adult Flag Football

Wednesdays (church and co-ed leagues) & Fridays (men's competitive league), registration deadline - Sept. 24, season starts Oct. 1, \$325 per team (min. 6 players), Adult Sports Complex, 2600 Pasadena Blvd.

Adult Flag Football is back! The 6-week season includes 5 weeks of games and the 6th week is for single elimination playoffs which all teams participate in. TAAF rules apply.

Habla y Dime Spanish Classes

\$40 per child per unit, for ages 4-13, Unit 1 - Sept., Unit 2 - Oct. & Unit 3 - Nov. or early Dec., Deer Park Community Center Spanish classes for all fluency levels will be offered twice a week. The children will be taught the natural way through language immersion and active learning. Students will be engaged in fun, age-appropriate activities that reinforce their newly acquired Spanish vocabulary. Each session consists of 55 minutes of conversational Spanish and 55 minutes of interactive learning per week taught by certified Texas educators. An informational orientation will be held at the Community Center on Aug. 14 at 6pm.

Ages 4-5, Tues. & Thurs. 5:30-6:25pm
Ages 6-7, Tues. & Thurs. 6:30-7:25pm
Ages 8-10, Mon. & Wed. 5:30-6:25pm
Ages 11-13 Mon. & Wed 6:30-7:25pm

Movie in the Park

Sept. 6, Oct. 4 & Nov. 1, 7:30pm Watch a family friendly movie in Dow Park on the 1st Saturday of every month for free!

Deer Park Junior Tennis

Sessions: Sept. 16-Oct. 25 & Oct. 28-Dec. 13 (no classes Thanksgiving week), schedule for ages 5-8 is 8-9am on Saturdays or 4:30-5:30pm on Tuesdays, schedule for ages 9-14 is 9-10am on Saturdays or 5:30-6:30pm on Tuesdays, schedule for intermediate to advanced intermediate level is 10-11am on Saturdays or 6:30-7:30pm on Tuesdays, \$89 per

child per session (1 day per week) or \$178 per child per session (2 days per week), Dow Park Tennis Courts The tennis programs are designed for all skill levels, ages 5 to 14. Classes will focus on beginning skills through advanced-intermediate tennis development. You must designate which days of the week you would like and register for each day individually. Coaches are Joel Hoffman, former ATP Touring Pro and Chris Hoffman, USPTA Level 1 Pro.

Worldwide Day of Play

Sept. 20 is Nickelodeon's Worldwide Day of Play, an entire day devoted to play! Nickelodeon plans to go off the air from 12 to 3pm to encourage everyone to go outside and play. To celebrate, we've scheduled 3 hours of free family fun with hot dogs and cold water for the first 100 people, popcorn, geocaching in the park (smart phone required), races, a water balloon toss, pool relay races (swimsuit required), face painting, music, and more at Dow Park. In case of inclement weather, limited activities will be held inside the Community Center.

Market Days

Sept. 20, Oct. 18 & Nov. 15, 9am-1pm, Dow Park Stroll through Dow Park on Market Days every 3rd Saturday of the month and find a variety of homemade goods and ready-made items. Contact Betty Geck or Miranda Brown at marketdays@yahoo.com if you wish to be a vendor. Vendor fees are \$30 to \$40.

Concealed Handgun Class

Oct. 4 & Dec. 13, 8:30am-3pm, for ages 21 & over or 18, if actively serving in the military, \$110 for students, \$100 for Deer Park educators, \$70

Parks & Recreation

for city employees, \$80 for DPVFD, \$70 for active military or reserve, \$50 for police officers, cost does not include \$15 range fee paid directly to the range, Deer Park Community Center

This course covers the rules and regulations to obtain a license to carry a concealed firearm in the State of Texas, as well as the safety, maintenance, and storage of a firearm. The class is designed for those getting their license for the first time. Renewals are now handled through the Texas Department of Public Safety at www.txdps.state.tx.us. Fingerprinting is required prior to the class. The closest fingerprinting location is L1 Identity in Pasadena. Forms that must be completed prior to the start of class are available online at www.tchconcealed.com.

Family Camp Out

Oct. 4 from 9am to 11am on Oct. 5, Galveston State Park The camp out is brought to you by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. and the Deer Park Parks & Recreation Dept. Join us for this overnight camping adventure! It is free of charge for families signing up through our Parks & Recreation Dept. thanks to a generous grant from the National Park Foundation.

Wild Child Destination - Star Cinema Grill: The Book of Life & Main Event

Nov. 3, 8am-4pm, for ages 6-11, \$35 per child, Deer Park Community Center Children will enjoy their day off from school as we travel to several local destinations for fun and lunch. No classes for DPISD.

Arbor Day Camp Out

Nov. 7 from 6pm to 10am on Nov. 8, \$7 per adult (ages 18 & over), \$5 per child (under the age of 17), Avon

Recreation Center Bring the family for an outdoor adventure and help reforest the park by planting trees. Campfire chili dogs will be served for dinner, as well as coffee and hot chocolate with a small breakfast in the morning. Restrooms will be available through the night. Electricity will not be available. Families should bring a tent, sleeping bags, and warm clothes.

Archery Camp

Dec. 29-31, 8am-3pm, for ages 8-14, \$75 per child, Jimmy Burke Activity Center Learn the basics of recurve archery from USA Archery level 2 certified instructors. Archery instills confidence, increases attention spans, and inspires a willingness to try other sports.

Fishing at Dow Park Pool

Jan. 30, 4-8pm & Jan. 31, 10am-2pm, Dow Park Pool Participate in the Inaugural Winter Fishing at Dow Park Pool event. The Parks & Recreation Dept. partnered with Texas Parks and Wildlife to stock the pool with rainbow trout. Fishing poles will be provided and you'll get to keep what you catch. Staff will be onsite to filet fish before you take your fish home. Jan. 30 is reserved for senior citizens, special populations, and Wounded Warriors. Jan. 31 is an event open to all adults and children.

Haunted Maze

Oct. 17, 18, 24 & 25, 7:30-11pm, \$10 per person, Jimmy Burke Activity Center A cool shudder trickles down your spine. Glancing around nervously, you see somber portraits staring at you from behind layers of dust, seemingly infiltrating your very being. Cold, hesitant light streams in through a cracked

window, casting eerie shadows on the walls. As you walk forward, you can't help but feel that someone is following you. Whirling around, you see nothing but the empty hallway and the faces in the portraits staring at you. You contemplate turning back, but instead you swallow a nervous whimper and continue into the dark bowels of the maze.

Goblin Gallop & Monster Mile

Oct. 11, 8am (5K) & 9am (1 mile), for all ages, pre-registration \$20 per person (5K) or \$10 per person (1 mile), race day \$25 per person (5K) or \$15 per person (1 mile), Jimmy Burke Activity Center Join us for the Annual Goblin Gallop 5K Run/Walk and Kid's Monster Mile. In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a portion of our proceeds will be benefitting The Rose in Houston, which assists with quality breast health care in the surrounding area. This year, it will be a cross country course using a chip timing system.

Halloween Carnival

Oct. 31, 6:30-9:30pm, Jimmy Burke Activity Center The theme for the 41st Annual Halloween Carnival will be super heroes! It's free admission and parking, so put on your craziest, family-friendly costume and enter the costume contest for only \$2 per person (6:30-8:30pm) or enter the pumpkin carving/decorating contest (drop off 6-6:30pm). Sign up for the costume contest starts at 6pm. 1st, 2nd & 3rd place will be awarded in every category of the costume contest, as well as \$100 for best of show. Winners will be announced at 8:45pm. We'll also have Pumpkin Town with plenty

Parks & Recreation

of fun carnival games for young children. Pumpkin Town ticket sales are from 6:30-9:15pm. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Turkey Camp

Nov. 24-26, 7:30am-5:30pm, for ages 6-11, \$75 per child, Jimmy Burke Activity Center Join us for some fun during your Thanksgiving Break with arts & crafts, games, and field trips. Limited to 45.

Turkey Shoot

Nov. 25, 6-9pm, for ages 6 & over, \$2 per person through Nov. 10, \$3 per person after Nov. 10, Jimmy Burke Activity Center Equipment will be provided for all participants. No personal equipment allowed. There will be 4 age groups, beginning at age 6. Participants ages 18 & over will compete in archery only. Winners in each division will receive a prize.

Reindeer Park

Dec. 5, 6-9pm & Dec. 6, 4-8:30pm Join us for the 4th annual fun-filled 2-day event, Reindeer Park. There will be a Santa's Village with craft vendors, photos with Santa, Santa's Tree Farm, the Christmas tree lighting, snow areas and slides, the Reindeer Dash, and a lighted Christmas parade! The theatre will host Mrs. Clause's Marketplace and the Art Park Players' Swingin' Sleigh Ride Christmas Musical Revue at Prancer's Playhouse. Overflow parking will be at the Houston Area Safety Council, where a shuttle service will be available to transport passengers to and from the Jimmy Burke Activity Center and theatre. The shuttle service will operate from 4 to 8pm on Dec. 6. For more information, go to www.deerparktx.gov/reindeerpark.

Tiffany's Tips - Tree Selection

Trees play an important role in our lives. They improve the air we breathe by absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen, provide shade and habitat for wildlife, and add natural beauty to our community. There are many factors to consider when selecting a tree for an area. Making the appropriate choice will increase the tree's chance of survival. Also, keep in mind that native trees for your area will require less maintenance. The location of the tree is the first and foremost factor to consider. After deciding on a location, determine the amount of space available for growth, water availability, soil texture and drainage, plus the amount of sunlight and shade the area receives.



Be sure to do your research. It's easy to get overwhelmed when selecting the right tree because there are so many possibilities. Remember to find out how big the tree will get so you will plant it far enough away from your house, street, driveway, or pool. It is also important to consider whether there are nearby overhead or underground power lines. Underground lines should always be located before digging. When planting near overhead lines, there should be enough space for the canopy to grow without going into or over the power lines. If your tree does grow into the power lines, please contact the local electric utility company to request the trimming of your tree. Serious injury or death can occur when untrained homeowners attempt to trim trees around power lines. By law, only professionals who are authorized by the local electric utility company are allowed to trim or remove trees next to power lines.

Tiffany McGallian
Park Operations Coordinator

Sleigh Ride

Dec. 17-20, 6:15-7:30pm & 7:15-8:30pm, \$5 per rider, Deer Park Community Center, Room 12 Registration starts Oct. 6. Join us for hot chocolate and cookies as we prepare to load up the sleighs and enjoy Deer Park's Christmas lights. Space is limited so reservations are required. Children must be accompanied by an adult and a waiver must be signed for each participant. Limited to 60 per ride.

Santa's Night Out

Dec. 20, 6pm-12am, \$25 per child, for ages 5-11, Deer Park Community Center The children will enjoy a night of fun with dinner and a ride to Moody Gardens for the festival of lights. Upon returning to the community center, we'll play games, watch a movie, and eat snacks.

For more information, check out the *Live and Play* brochure at www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrec.

Council Actions

May 2014

- Approved the rezoning of 16.076 acres out of the George Patrick Survey, Abstract 624, from Single Family to Single Family 2.
- Approved the rezoning of 206 Helgra from Multi Family 2 to Community Service.
- Awarded the bid for the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project Year 4 for Priority Area #3 to PM Construction in the amount of \$1,779,415.
- Awarded the bid for a one year supply of lime slurry for the Water Treatment Plant to Limeco at a unit price of \$164 per dry ton.
- Accepted the completion of the Emergency Medical Services billing audit by ProMedic Consultants, LLC.
- Approved additional capital improvement funds from the Touchstone Golf, LLC lease's third year commitment to complete the approved 2013-2015 Capital Improvement projects.
- Approved the reappointment of Troy Cothran to the Board of Directors of the South East Texas Housing Finance Corporation for a two-year term.
- Awarded the bid for the painting of the Adult Holding Facility and the Patrol Briefing Room to Painting Professionals in the amount of \$18,540.
- Approved to apply for and accept a grant through the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act.
- Approved a resolution amending the Employee Travel Policy.
- Approved the Crime Control & Prevention District's purchase of a 2014 Chevrolet Tahoe for the Deer Park Police Dept. K-9 unit.
- Approved the renewal of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System storm water permit.
- Approved an ordinance granting a pipeline franchise to NuStar Logistics for a twelve inch propane pipeline.
- Approved an ordinance declaring the results of the City General Election held on May 10, 2014.
- Awarded the bid for a one year supply of gasoline and diesel fuel to Petroleum Traders Corporation.
- Awarded the bid for the parking lot expansion at Fire Station #3 to T&T Construction in the amount of \$40,533.16.
- Accepted the Quarterly Finance Report for the 2nd quarter ending March 31, 2014.
- Accepted the Quarterly Investment Report for January-March 2014.
- Accepted the completion of the Asbestos Abatement and Demolition of 1210 S. Amy Drive. Final cost was \$21,805.
- Accepted the completion of the Library Roof Replacement project. Final cost was \$99,671.
- Accepted the completion of the 12th Street Storm Drainage project. Final cost was \$390,351.25.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for the expansion of the City Hall parking lot.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for a one year supply of sodium hexametaphosphate for the Water Treatment Plant.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for a one year supply of garbage bags.
- Approved the purchase of a forklift through the BuyBoard Cooperative Purchasing Program for the Water Treatment Plant.
- Approved a running chronological listing of Mayor Pro-Tem designations.
- Approved a resolution and execution of the Parks & Recreation Outdoor Adventure Program through a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Outreach Grant.
- Approved the appointment of members to the Board of Health and City Health Officers.
- Approved the appointment of members to the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Approved the appointment of members to the Planning and Zoning Commission/Board of Adjustments.
- Approved an ordinance appointing Larry Wilson as Municipal Court Judge.

June 2014

- Accepted the completion of the 3rd Year Sanitary Sewer Overflow project. Final cost was \$469,917.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for the expansion of the equipment bay at Fire Station #2.
- Approved an agreement with Deer Park Independent School District for FY 2014-2015 facility usage.
- Approved an agreement with Knudson Associates for services to develop a new Master Comprehensive Plan and a Zoning and Subdivision ordinance.
- Approved a proposal for engineering and surveying services for the replacement of the 8th Street Bridge over HCFCD

Council Actions

Channel No. G104-00-00.

- Approved the adoption of the 2014 Strategic Plan.
- Approved the amendment to the Community Development Block Grant Cooperative City agreement with Harris County.
- Terminated Job Number 1824-003-01, Contract 1 for the drainage improvements for Deer Park Gardens, Section 8B, Subdivision.
- Awarded the bid for drainage improvements for Deer Park Gardens, Section 8B, Subdivision to G. W. Phillips Construction.
- Approved a resolution of the City Council of the City of Deer Park, Texas, supporting the "Ike Dike" concept being proposed by Texas A&M University.
- Approved an ordinance appointing an associate judge for a new term to run from June 1, 2014 through May 31, 2016.
- Awarded the bid for the East Highline Drive street and drainage project to Metro City Construction in the amount of \$283,260.60.
- Authorized staff to seek Request for Qualifications from engineering firms for a new firing range.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for a 2 year contract with the option for an additional year for printing the Messenger, the city's quarterly newsletter.
- Approved an amendment to the agreement with Knudson, LP for the design and construction administration of the Gateway Project.
- Renewed the Deer Park Police Department School Resource Officers and Crossing Guards

Inter-local agreement with the Deer Park Independent School District.

- Appointed an alternate representative to the Houston-Galveston Area Council.
- Appointed a member to the Senior Citizen Commission.

July 2014

- Awarded the bid for a one year supply of refuse bags to Houston Poly Bag.
- Awarded the bid for a one year supply of sodium hexameta-phosphate for the Water Treatment Plant to Chemrite, Inc.
- Authorized staff to reject the bids for the 2013 Sidewalk Improvement project and authorization to rebid the project.
- Authorized staff to advertise and receive bids for the Surface Water Treatment Plant improvements to replace the backwash return pumping system.
- Authorized staff to advertise and receive bids for the Surface Water Treatment Plant improvements to replace the automatic transfer switch and utility service appurtenances.
- Approved a resolution to pledge and post all bond and debt information on the city's website no later than one business day after the public notice of a bond election in accordance with the Texas State Comptroller's criteria for financial transparency.
- Awarded the bid for the printing of the Messenger, the city's quarterly newsletter, to See-bridge Media in the amount of \$21,632 per year.
- Approved the purchase of a Motorola MCC5500 radio con-

sole in the amount of \$40,825 for the Police Department.

- Approved an agreement with the American National Red Cross for specialized transportation services.
- Approved a recommendation from the Crime Control and Prevention District to accept the FY 2014-2015 budget and an ordinance calling a public hearing.
- Approved a recommendation from the Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District to accept the FY 2014-2015 budget and an ordinance calling a public hearing.
- Approved a change order for an emergency expenditure of \$48,750 with PM Construction for the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation project.
- Approved an ordinance appointing Shannon Bennett as Deputy City Secretary.

Recycling

The City of Deer Park encourages residents to participate in the recycling program. Collection bins for aluminum, plastic, glass, and paper are set up at the Transfer Station, located at 610 Underwood Road. To find out more about recycling and what you can do to ensure that the materials remain acceptable, go to www.deerparktx.gov/publicworks, click on *Recycling* under *Community Services*, and click on *Tips for Recycling*. For questions, contact the Transfer Station at 281-478-7213.

Register Today - Before a Storm is on its way!
Transportation Assistance Registry

If you will need help evacuating in the event of a hurricane, please dial 2-1-1 to register in advance for a ride. Dial 2-1-1 as soon as possible, if you:

- Have a disability or special health care need and require assistance to get out.
- Cannot drive and cannot arrange for transportation.
- Do not have a vehicle and you have no one else to help you evacuate.

The 2-1-1 registration process gives local emergency planners a better idea of the number of individuals who may need assistance, and the type of assistance they may need. The State of Texas will provide your information back to local emergency planners so they can plan accordingly.

Once you are registered, your information is safe in the state database. There is no need to call either 2-1-1 or your local emergency management office back to verify registration. This includes people who registered last year. Unless there is a change to your information, you do not need to re-register.

You will need the following information to register:

- Name
- Address
- Phone number (There is only room for one number, so please give the best number to call.)
- Contact name
- Contact relationship (aunt, brother, son, friend, landlord, etc.)
- Contact phone number
- Do you need transportation? (yes or no)
- Do you have any pets or service animals? (yes or no)
- Do you have a special medical need? (Describe the type of need you have.)



Save Your Life. Dial 2-1-1 To Register In Advance For A Ride.

Report A Concern

To report a concern or issue that needs our attention, complete this form and return it to:
City Manager, 710 E. San Augustine, Deer Park, Texas 77536.

You can also submit the appropriate form online at www.deerparktx.gov.

Together we can make Deer Park a better place!

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Best time to call: _____

Location of concern: _____

Describe the issue: _____



P.O. Box 700
Deer Park, TX 77536

Presorted Std.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Deer Park, Texas
Permit #15

The Mission of the City of Deer Park is to delivery exemplary municipal services that provide the community a high quality of life consistent with our history, culture, and unique character.

Turtle Rescue

A few months ago, someone brought a severely injured turtle, which was likely run over by a vehicle, to the Deer Park Animal Shelter. At first glance, the staff noticed that the shell was broken into several pieces. After further examination, the staff determined the turtle was suffering greatly and the shell was beyond repair. Because the turtle's chance of recovery was highly unlikely, the decision was made to euthanize it. The staff, however, noticed that the turtle was full of eggs. They decided to remove the eggs that were still intact and not destroyed by the impact from the vehicle. The eggs were then buried in a flower pot and placed in the backyard at the shelter. The top of the flower pot was covered with wire mesh to protect the eggs from other animals. After doing some research, the staff learned that the eggs would take about 3 months to hatch. Several months passed but nothing happened. Recently, the staff decided to dig up the eggs and check on them. To their surprise, of the 6 eggs they buried, 3 eggs had hatched. The Deer Park Animal Shelter contacted a turtle expert to find out what would be the next step for these turtles. He explained that it was against the law to sell or distribute turtles with shells that measure less than 4 inches in length because children can easily put them in their mouths. Turtles can carry salmonella and other diseases that can make people sick. As a result, the turtles were turned over to the turtle expert. He will provide them with excellent care and the opportunity for a long and happy life.



Adopt-a-Pet

Dogs and cats are available for adoption at the Deer Park Animal Shelter. There is a \$50 adoption fee, plus you must prepay for the spaying or neutering of the animal and a rabies vaccination. To view the pets currently available for adoption, visit the shelter Mon.-Fri., 8am-5pm or Sat. 8am-12pm or go to www.facebook.com/DeerParkTX.AnimalShelter. For more information, call 281-478-7274.



Notify Me

For current City news and information, join the e-mail subscription lists of your choice by selecting *Notify Me* at www.deerparktx.gov.